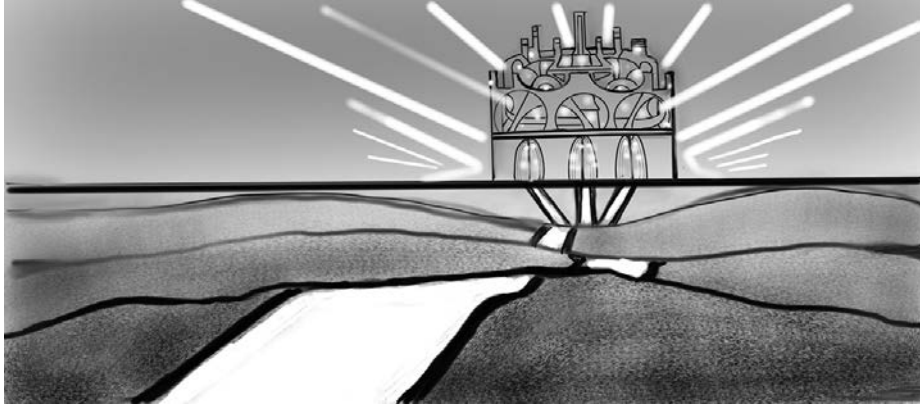


The Way, the Truth, and the Life



SABBATH—NOVEMBER 30

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: John 13:1–20; John 14:1–3; John 14:5, 6; John 1:14, 17; John 5:38–40.

MEMORY VERSE: “No one has ever seen God. But his only Son is very near to his Father’s heart. He has told us plainly about God” (John 1:18, WE).

THE BOOK OF JOHN is divided into four parts: (1) The Beginning (John 1:1–18), (2) the Book About Miracles (John 1:19–12:50), (3) the Book About Glory (John 13:1–20:31), and (4) the End (John 21:1–25). So far, we have studied the Beginning and the Book About Miracles. These two parts of the Book of John tell us about Jesus’ miracles, conversations, and teachings. These things show us Jesus. Now our lesson will look at the third part of John: the Book About Glory.

As we saw already, Jesus compares Himself to seven different things that help explain who He is. These seven word pictures start with the words “I AM.” (1) Jesus says, “‘I AM the Bread of Life’ ” (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51). (2) Jesus is also the Light of this earth (John 8:12, John 9:5). (3) Jesus is the Door or the Gate (John 10:7, 9). (4) Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14). (5) Jesus is the One who wakes up the dead (John 11:25). (6) Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). (7) Finally, Jesus is the Real Vine (John 15:1, 5).

This week, we will start our study with Jesus’ Goodbye Sermon. This sermon starts with Jesus washing His followers’ feet. Then we will look at the “I AM” word picture in John 14.



**Jesus is the Door
or the Gate (John 10:7, 9).**

JESUS' POWERFUL EXAMPLE (John 13:1–20)

We can read Jesus' Goodbye Sermon in John 13–17. In this sermon, Jesus teaches His followers what to expect and do in the future. Jesus helps His followers feel better about His leaving them. Jesus promises to send them a Helper (the Holy Spirit; John 14–16). Jesus also tells His followers that they will feel sad in the future because hard times are coming (John 15; 16). Then Jesus encourages His followers to stay strong in the faith (John 15).

Read the story in John 13:1–20. What happens in this story? Why is this story so important? What lessons did Jesus wish to teach His followers?

In Jesus' day, people went barefoot or wore sandals. Sandals were open shoes that didn't cover the toes or all of the feet. So, the feet got dirty. Slaves or servants washed the feet of guests who came to someone's house for a meal. But no servant was with Jesus and His followers on the night that Jesus ate His last meal with His followers before He got arrested.

To everyone's surprise, Jesus got up from the supper and washed the feet of all of His followers. John 13:4, 5 tells us everything that Jesus did. John tells us everything Jesus did because John wants us to understand that Jesus is doing something very special. Jesus is God. Now God is acting the same as a servant! Jesus empties His heart of all pride and kneels to wash the feet of His own followers and servants!

Peter's words and behavior in John 13:8–11 show us how much Jesus' followers misunderstood His actions. How could Jesus, the Savior, their Master, lower Himself to do this dirty work? Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet. Jesus told Peter that if he refused to cooperate, then Peter had no part with Jesus. So, Peter asked for more because he wanted to stay close to Jesus.

When Jesus lowers Himself to wash His followers' feet, He shows us who He is. In John 13:13, Jesus says He is the Teacher and the Lord. These names show us that Jesus has much power and control. But Jesus teaches that power and control must be used to serve other people, not to make yourself more powerful. Today, the Seventh-day Adventist Church follows Jesus' example with footwashing. Members wash each other's feet to get ready for the Lord's Supper.



Jesus empties His heart of all pride and kneels to wash the feet of His own followers and servants!

I WILL COME AGAIN (John 14:1–3)

Read what Jesus says in John 14:1–3. Why did Jesus say these words? What promises does Jesus make?



Jesus is going to heaven to get rooms ready for His followers in His Father's house.

At the end of John 13, Jesus says that He is going away (John 13:33). This information causes Peter to ask Jesus where He is going (John 13:36). The followers don't understand that Jesus is talking about His dying on the cross, His waking up from the dead, and His going back to heaven. Peter says that he is ready to die for Jesus (John 13:37). But Jesus warns Peter that he will soon pretend that he doesn't know who Jesus is.

Then Jesus tells His followers not to fill their hearts with worry or fear (John 14:1). When people are worried or afraid, they often become confused. So, Jesus knows that His words may cause His followers to feel afraid or confused about the future.

Jesus doesn't want His followers to feel afraid. So Jesus tells them something to help them feel better. Jesus talks about His Father's house. In this house, there are many rooms. (Do you see these rooms are not mansions or big houses? These rooms are the same as rooms in an inn or a hotel.) Jesus is going to heaven to get rooms ready for His followers in His Father's house. Jesus is looking past the Cross to the time in the future when the sin problem will be solved forever (read Daniel 7:27).

Jesus says, "After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am" (John 14:3, ERV). This promise talks about the Second Coming.

Why can we trust this promise? To answer the question, we must look at two different ways we can translate this promise. The words "I will come" in John 14:3 show us what Jesus will do in the future. In the Greek language, these words were written as "I am coming," which shows us what Jesus is doing right now. So, John shows us a powerful Bible truth. Jesus talks about His Second Coming as if it is already happening right now! That's why we can trust Jesus when He says He **will come back**.

For sure, we can trust Jesus who made this promise.

What does the Cross teach us about why we can trust in Jesus' promise about the Second Coming?

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE (John 14:5, 6)

What question did Thomas ask Jesus about where He was going? How did Jesus answer? Read John 14:5, 6 for the answers.

Thomas asks what we may think is a smart question. If you don't know where someone is going, how can you know the way to follow that person? But Jesus shows that this question comes from a heart filled with doubt and not faith or wisdom. Jesus answers by saying that He Himself is the way. The way to what? Jesus is the way to the Father. In John 1:1–18, John helps us see the connection between Jesus and God the Father.

John 1:18 says that Jesus shows us the Father. The words “to show” come from the Greek word “exēgeomai,” which means “to explain” or “to make the meaning of an idea plain or clear.” Jesus explains the Father to sinners. So, Jesus is the Way to the Father. Without Jesus, we can't understand the Father.

Philip asked to see the Father. No sinner can see the Father and live (compare with Exodus 33:17–34:9; John 1:18). Jesus scolds Philip's misunderstanding and tells him that if you see Jesus, that is the same thing as seeing the Father. Without Jesus, the road to God grows dark and is no longer sure or clear. Jesus is the light that shows us the way to God.

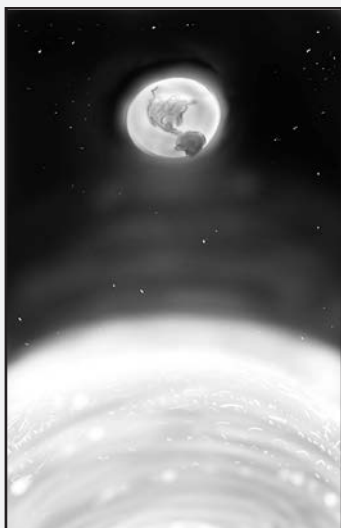
Jesus connects three words together: way, truth, and life. The word “way” is used in John 1:23 and in John 14:6. In John 1:23, John, Jesus' beloved follower, uses “way” to talk about how John the Baptist gets the way ready for Jesus. John also uses the words “truth” and “life.” These words are also important topics in the Book of John. Our study on Wednesday and Thursday will look at the idea of “truth.” The study of “truth” as a topic is very important today. That's because people everywhere doubt what the Bible says about “truth.”



Without Jesus, the road to God grows dark and is no longer sure or clear.

I AM THE TRUTH (John 1:14, 17)

Read John 1:14, 17; John 8:32; John 14:6; and John 15:26. How does John connect the idea of Truth to Jesus?



The truth, Jesus, can be compared to the sun that lights up the whole earth (John 8:12).

Again and again in the Book of John, we see that truth is connected to Jesus, to His Father, and to the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the light. Jesus is not the dark (John 1:1–14; John 3:19–21). The devil is a liar and a sinner (John 8:44–46). In the Book of John, truth is more than information and correct numbers. Truth is also about obeying God and doing what He asks us to do.

“Many people want to know the living God. These people want God in their lives. Man-made ideas and writings can’t fill the human heart. Human sayings and inventions have no worth. People must read the Bible. In the Bible people will hear God talk to them. These people may have heard only human ideas. But when they read the Bible, they will hear the voice of God. The Lord can make the spirit new and give us everlasting life.”—Ellen G. White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 40, adapted.

Think about what it means for Jesus to be the Truth. Jesus is the “logos” or the Word who was with God from the beginning. Jesus made all things (John 1:1–4). Jesus was there with the Father from the beginning. Jesus and the Father are in perfect agreement with each other. Jesus is also the “I AM.” Jesus is not under anyone else’s control. Everything lives or is here because Jesus made everything. “Everything was made through [with] him and for him. The Son was there before anything was made. And all things continue because of him” (Colossians 1:16, 17, ERV).

Jesus is more than someone who says the truth. Jesus **is** the Truth. Truth isn’t just an idea or a human invention. Truth is a Person! That Person is Jesus.

The truth, Jesus, can be compared to the sun that lights up the whole earth (John 8:12). C. S. Lewis says, “I believe in Christianity in the same way that I believe that the sun rises. I saw the sun rise. Then the sun helps me to see everything else.”—“Is Theology Poetry?” (n. p.: Samizdat University Press, 2014), page 15, first presented in 1944. Jesus, the Truth, helps us to understand life and everything around us.

THE BIBLE AND THE TRUTH (John 5:38–40)

The Book of John tells us about Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. The Old and New Testaments have an important part in teaching us Bible truth. The Bible teaches us about who Jesus is and what He came to do.

Read John 5:38–40. What is Jesus saying about the Bible in these verses?

Jesus and His followers used the Bible again and again to show that He was the Savior. Jesus said, “ ‘If you really believed Moses, you would believe me because Moses wrote about me. But you don’t believe what Moses wrote. So how can you believe what I say?’ ” (John 5:46, 47, ICB).

Read Luke 24:27. Why is it important that Jesus used the Bible to show why His work for God was important?

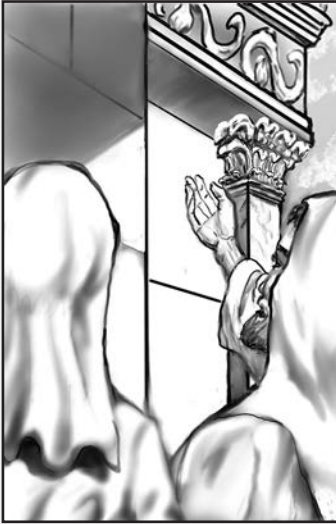
In the Book of Matthew, Jesus says a verse from Exodus and tells the Jewish leaders, “ ‘Surely [for sure] you have read what God said to you about people rising [waking up] from death [the dead]’ ” (Matthew 22:31, ERV). In the same way, Zacharias talked about the things that God “promised through [told to] his holy prophets [special messengers] long ago” (Luke 1:70, ERV). Peter preached a sermon on the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost was the time when God poured the Holy Spirit on the church after Jesus went back to heaven. In his sermon, Peter said, “ ‘Brothers and sisters, in the Scriptures [the Bible] the Holy Spirit said through [to] David that something must happen. He [the Spirit] was talking about Judas, one of our own group. Judas served together with us. The Spirit said that Judas would lead men to arrest Jesus’ ” (Acts 1:16, 17, ERV).

The Bible is not a schoolbook about science. The Bible doesn’t explain how to split the smallest part of a human brain cell or how to operate on the human body. But the Bible gives us something more important than man-made knowledge. The Bible helps us understand who we are and why we are here. The Bible is the same as light. This light helps us to see. Without this light, we cannot understand God, who He is, where we came from, why we are here, what life means, and what will happen in the future.

What are some Bible truths that science can’t teach?



The Bible is the same as light.



“Jesus pointed to the sun and said, ‘I am the Light of [for] the world [all the people on the earth]’ [John 8:12, NLV].”

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “‘The Light of Life,’” pages 463–475, in *The Desire of Ages*; E. Edward Zinke, “The Authority of the Bible and the Certainty of the Second Coming,” pages 23–36, in *The Certainty of the Second Coming*.

Jesus said, “‘I am the Light of the world [for all people on the earth]’ ” (John 8:12, NLV). When Jesus said these words, He “was in the part of the temple that was connected with a special Jewish feast named the Feast of Tabernacles. In the middle of this part of the temple, two big lampstands stood. After the evening offering, all the lamps were lit. The light from the lamps shined on the city of Jerusalem. The lamps helped the Jews remember the time when God led His people in a tall cloud of light across the desert. The lamp light helped the people to think about the coming of the promised Savior. At evening when the lamps were lit, the people in temple were filled with joy. . . .

“When the lamps from the temple filled Jerusalem with light, the Jews talked about their hope in the coming Savior. The people hoped the Savior would come soon to fill Israel with His light. Jesus understood that the lamps also taught another important Bible truth: Jesus is the same as the lamps in the temple. Jesus gives us all spiritual light or truth. This Bible truth fills with light the hearts and minds of people on this dark earth. The lamps in the temple were a good word picture. But the sun was a better one. Jesus’ own hand put the sun in the skies.

“The time was morning. The sun was above the Mount of Olives. The sun’s rays fell on the marble palaces and lit up the golden temple walls. Jesus pointed to the sun and said, ‘I am the Light of [for] the world [all the people on the earth]’ [John 8:12, NLV].”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 463, 464, adapted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① What important truths can we never learn from science? For example, the Cross? Or the Second Coming? Why must God show these Bible truths to us?
- ② Lucifer was a perfect angel. He knew so much about God and who He was. But Lucifer fought against God. What does Lucifer’s fall teach us about free choice? We also have this same free choice. Why must we choose to give our lives to God every moment?

GIFT TO A COLOMBIAN WOMAN

A woman drove her car into a parking garage in Bogota, Colombia. The parking garage belonged to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The woman asked the parking garage worker if his church was Christian.

The worker's name was Ruben Campos. Ruben was 52 years old. He told the woman, "Yes, we are Christian."

The woman asked, "Which religion are you?"

Ruben answered, "We're Seventh-day Adventists. Can we help you?"

The woman said, "Someone told me that Adventists don't like to help other people."

Ruben was surprised. He told the woman, "Let us help you. We're ready to serve."

The woman asked if she could park her car in the church parking garage. Her apartment was nearby, but it didn't have any parking. The woman didn't feel safe leaving her car on the street at night.

Ruben said, "Yes, you can park here."

The woman asked, "How much does it cost?"

Ruben said, "It won't cost you anything. It will be our gift."

The woman was very happy. "Thank you!"

That night, the woman left her car in the parking garage. She came back to park in the garage the next night. On the third night, the woman asked Ruben for a Bible.

Then Ruben and the woman started to study the Bible. Ruben brought the woman a chair. He sat in his small office as they studied. After a month, the woman said she wanted to introduce Ruben to her husband. The woman called her husband from her cellphone. She told her husband, "I've been studying the Bible, and I want to be baptized."

The woman's husband was a top officer in the Colombian army. The army sent the officer to work in a foreign country. The officer told Ruben that he also wanted Bible studies. The officer said, "We can start when I get back to Colombia."

Ruben was very happy when the woman got baptized in a Seventh-day Adventist church in Bogota. Now Ruben waits for her husband to come back to the country for Bible studies.

Jesus also served other people. Jesus said, " 'Do as I did: The Son of Man did not come for people to serve him. He came to serve others and to give his life to save many people' " (Matthew 20:28, ERV). Ruben wants to follow Jesus' example.

Ruben says, "We can change many lives if we serve Jesus. Someone may come to you soon. You must be ready to serve at any time." Thank you for your 13th Sabbath Offering that helped two Bible programs in Colombia last quarter.

INSIDE *Story*

by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



The woman asked Ruben for a Bible.



Ruben Campos